



Society of the Little Flower

**1313 N. Frontage Road
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***Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.
Director***

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POSTAL REGULATORY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York NW, Suite
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No: RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Society of the Little Flower and the over 1 million Americans who donate to our mission, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases – which are estimated to reach seven percent per year – will have a negative impact on the Society of the Little Flower's ability to carry out its mission and will not reform the Postal Service.

The mission of the Society of the Little Flower is to promote devotion to St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Donations enable the Carmelites (a Catholic order of priests and brothers) throughout the world to make a difference in people's lives through their ministries and in the education of seminarians. As a nonprofit mailer, our organization sends out over 6.6 million pieces of mail per year to secure the donations needed to help in many areas of our ministries to supply food, water, medicine, shelter, education and more to the poorest of the poor in over 50 countries around the world.

The Society of the Little Flower is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next 5 years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to less revenue, limiting our outreach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on critical mission programs.

The USPS says that it partners with us mailers. Springing a wholesale and drastic change such as contemplated here does not demonstrate collaboration. It is not how partners treat each other. We, like other nonprofit mailers, have long relied on our partnership with the Postal Service. We urge you to justify our reliance by reconsidering this recent proposal to increase postage rates.

Sincerely,

Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.

Rev. Thomas Schrader, O Carm.
Director

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~ Since 1923 ~

The mission of the Society of the Little Flower is to promote devotion to St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, the Carmelite Nun and Doctor of the Church. Through prayers and donations, friends of St. Thérèse enable Carmelites throughout the world to make a difference in people's lives through Gospel ministries and the education of seminarians, fulfilling her mission to "make God known and loved to the ends of the earth" in the most concrete ways of charity and justice.